

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

Vassar College has at present 440 students. Rosedale College has a large attendance this term.

Brown University has seventy freshmen this term.

There are two kindergarten schools in New-Haven.

The chair of Rhetoric at Bowdoin is now filled by Prof. Chapman.

Indiana State University has the largest law class of its existence this year.

The Freshman class of '79 at Harvard bids fair to number over 220 members.

German is to be made a regular branch of study in the Wheeling, West Va., schools.

The University of Cambridge has conferred 500 degrees during the past academic year.

The effort to abolish the Government military instruction in the Detroit High School has failed.

The corner-stone of the Colorado State University was laid at Boulder, Sept. 29, under a chilling snow-storm.

It is estimated that the school population of Texas is now 350,000. The average cost of the schools per pupil is \$16 a month.

The Porter Scholarship for the best entrance examination of Amherst has been awarded to Charles B. Gould of the Albany Academy.

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The old University of North Carolina was reopened with brilliant ceremonies Sept. 15. Gov. Broadwater an apt and entertaining address. The University offers five courses to its students. Besides the classical and scientific courses there is an optional course for those who wish to engage in special study or studies.

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The number of persons in this year's Freshman class of Union College will probably equal the whole number in either four years ago. Many are from the Southern states, and, without exception, rank high for character and scholarship. The various courses of study have been revised and largely expanded, while the general standard of study has been greatly raised.

The Seniors of Amherst Agricultural College have been given military subjects upon which to write essays, so as to be ready before the battle-field, during the Winter term; one also relating to the military future of America, the best essay to be rewarded with a prize of money, offered by Genl. C. A. Toffey. The class will graduate 22 or 24, which is the largest class since the first two.

A large number of the best citizens of Baltimore have signed a petition asking the City Council to give the School Board the right of allowing a small pension to those teachers who have served for 30 years or more, and have grown incapable, by reason of age, of further work in the schools. The members of the school Board are said to advocate the measure, which is certainly a good one.

A writer in *The New-England Journal of Education* says: "It seems to me that written examinations, occurring once a month, would succeed in doing the work of marks, without incurring the disadvantages which accompany them. In the first place every student would then have the same questions to answer as every other. He would also just as many of them. In the second place, there would be no opportunity of 'talking against time.' The question is in print; it remains unaltered; it means what it says, and it can either be answered, or it cannot. The answer being written, must be definite or nothing."

It is time that school boards should realize that teachers ought to have more than a text-book *especial*, and it is a pleasure to quote the following bit of good sense from *The National Teacher's Monthly*: "When a teacher is wanted, it is absurd to look for that function who has only proved himself a successful learner. Faculty in teaching, like other doing powers, is to be ascertained and judged by its own tests. A teacher must have knowledge; but that is only one of the many needed qualifications; the most easily tested, but really secondary. Versatility, inventiveness, tact, patience, skill in adapting one's mind to those he meets, readiness to comprehend the minds of others, organizing and governing power—these are worth more than unpractical knowledge, however extensive or exact. Oral examination and conversation, if well conducted, bring out evidence of the presence or absence of these qualities. If written examinations may be relied upon to test the learning of the candidate, oral examinations only can test the subtler elements of power."

Yale College opened Sept. 16. There have been in all 220 applications for admission, and 100 students were admitted without condition. There are no changes of importance to record at the beginning of the year. Neither the Chapel nor the Peabody Museum is yet completed. Rochester University opens with a Freshman class of 45, and further additions are expected. Syracuse University was reopened on Wednesday, Sept. 15. There were present 215 students at the first chapel service. Chancellor Haven announced that attendance upon chapel service would be required hereafter of all the students. The Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst was reopened with a new class of 13 members. Among them is one young lady, a graduate of the State Normal School at Salem. Oberlin College was opened with about the usual number of students. There have been a few changes in the faculty. Asbury University (Ind.) began its Fall session on the 15th inst. The members of the old faculty have been reinstated. Dr. Martin, ex-President of Virginia University, has been elected President.

Prof. Fawcett's address at the recent meeting for the distribution of the prizes awarded by the committee and the University certificates in the late Oxford and Cambridge local examinations contained these wise sentences: "There cannot be a greater mistake than for a teacher or a pupil to suppose that going over a wide range of subjects in a cursory and shallow manner will produce so good a result in an examination as obtaining a more complete mastery over a much smaller number of subjects. There is one danger connected with these examinations on which I am anxious to say a few words of earnest caution. I notice that some of the candidates have taken no

less than eight or ten subjects. It would, I am sure, be in every respect better, not simply with regard to the examination, but with regard to the influence exercised on the pupils' minds, if their attention was confined to a smaller number of subjects. Let it never be forgotten that excellence in a few subjects ought to be regarded as a much greater distinction, and is certain to prove permanently far more beneficial than mediocrity or showiness in several subjects."

Gail Hamilton in discussing in *The Independent* the question of corporal punishment in the schools says: "I release into barbarism sufficiently to suggest that, in the present state of our civilization and our school organization, corporal punishment is a means of grace which we cannot abolish, and have not abolished without injury. The necessity of using it is very, perhaps exceedingly rare. The teacher who frequently and freely resorts to it is presumptively unfit for his situation. But the power to use it should rest in the teacher, and is a preventive of mischief. Corporal punishment has never been abolished in the kindest of nature or of grace. Few well-trained or even ill-trained families exist in which, at some time or other, in greater or less degree, some resort to it has not been found necessary or made expedient. Many a mother knows that, while five of her children can be governed by a look or an appeal to their reason or their love, the sixth is amenable only to the argument of a little whine. Every teacher knows that there are boys who, by some inward conformation or some defect of home training, do not respond to the ordinary motives of the school-room."

The elementary instruction in geology at Syracuse University is to be condensed this year into the months of February and March, this arrangement giving opportunities for instruction to special geological students. The plan is intended to accommodate persons of all ages who feel the desirabilities of an outline acquaintance with geological science, and who might be able to devote two months to the study, while their convenience does not permit them to take an entire collegiate course, or to keep the study in hand six months or a year. Besides the Elementary Course, two advanced courses will be given. One of these courses will be Lithological and the other Palaeontological. Both will be prosecuted in the laboratories of the University rather than the lecture-rooms. The Lithological Course, will aim to impart to the student a knowledge of the different species of rocks and their constituent minerals, will include the determination and analysis of ores, as well as the wet processes of analysis. The Palaeontological Course will consist of a series of synoptical lectures on the distribution of zoological types in time, followed by the laboratory study of one or two of these types in its details. Other types may be taken up on a future occasion. These advanced courses in Lithology and Palaeontology are intended especially for persons having some acquaintance with the elements of geology, and for the conveniences of those pursuing study for advanced degrees. The fee for students not matriculated in the University will be \$10 for a single course, \$12 for two courses, and \$15 for three courses.

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